

# CITY OF AKUTAN

AKUTAN



☐ P.O. Box 109  
Akutan, Alaska 99553  
Phone (907) 698-2228  
Fax (907) 698-2202  
April 14, 2000

☐ Anchorage Office  
1600 A Street, Suite 103  
Anchorage, AK 99501-5146  
Phone: (907) 274-7555  
Fax (907) 276-7569

Eric Taylor, Area Plans Coordinator  
Dept. Transportation & Public Facilities  
3132 Channel Drive  
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I have reviewed your Airport Improvement Analysis Technical Memorandum for the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan and find that the numbers and analyses representing Akutan are seriously flawed. Air traffic demand is grossly underreported. I am afraid that this may influence the airport study for Akutan that is currently underway.

Enplanements for Akutan over the last ten years have averaged between 2,500 and 3000 per year, one way, or about double that both ways. Since Akutan is a single-destination flight those are passengers destined for Akutan, not through traffic. We have had two flights per day, on a nine-passenger Grumman Goose, for probably the last ten years. Some days they fly extra sections and have ten flights or more. I assume that traffic of this magnitude would require 1,000 meters runway at minimum. I do not understand how you can then come up with a total weekly demand of 623 lbs. for passengers and freight.

Although the village is small, Akutan is home to one of the largest processing facilities in the State. So far, the small size floatplane that can be brought in has limited us. The Grumman Goose cannot handle much of the freight because of the small loading doors. When an airport is built on Akutan, the processor plans to build a multi-million dollar cold storage facility. This would mean product could be stored in Alaska instead of being transshipped and stored in Japan. Jobs and taxes from the facility would benefit Alaska. Your recommendations of a smaller plane and smaller runway would certainly thwart those plans.

We have always struggled with the limited air service provided to Akutan because of the type of aircraft available to us. Your under-reporting our current demand and future needs may well continue to limit our air access in the future as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joe Bereskin".

/ Joe Bereskin  
Mayor

cc: Tom Brigham, DOT  
Jeff Ottesen, DOT  
Dwayne Hippe, HDR  
Mark